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“E mahi tahi ana ki nga oranga pai ake”
Working together to better lives

07 572 4547 | 027 926 1881 | liaison.headwaybop@brain-injury.org.nz
www.braininjurybop.org.nz

SEPTEMBER 2026

NEWSLETTER

Kia ora koutou

Welcome to Spring! Thank goodness that spring is finally here! I have to give a shout out to the people of Papamoa last week, we were fund-raising at Papamoa Plaza, and it was so enjoyable – people stopped to chat, donations came all day and the mood was so up-beat, sooo appreciated! Thanks to Tracey for agreeing to come out with me, I told her if she didn't, I would be forced to sit alone and talk to myself, so she came along and it was a delightful 2 hours.

Please see below the link to the latest video from the NZ Neurological Foundation. The presenter was Dr Sam McCullough from the University of Auckland. He talks about the high instances of concussion and describes it as an unavoidable risk that we all face in our every day lives. He notes that over half of people injured report symptoms a year after the injury and the often profound effect this has on people's ability to engage in meaningful ways with their communities, workplaces and families. He is researching the bodies response to brain injury using stem cells in the laboratory to model human responses. The good news is he thinks they are close to finding effective treatments. Click on the link below to view the video.

<https://www.neurological.org.nz/events/lecture-library/>

Meet Committee Vice President, John Skelton



Vice President John Skelton

Tēnā koutou katoa

Hi, I am John Skelton. You may have seen me around from time to time. This is my second time on the Headway committee. This time I am Vice President and I also undertake accounting for the organisation.

I am a Chartered Accountant with a degree from the University of Auckland. I have been in finance and senior general management roles for more than forty years. Most of those years were spent working for multinational technology companies and I also was Chief Financial Officer for the Problem Gambling Foundation for six years. I have been involved in many charities over the years in both finance and governance roles.

I have spent time overseas and I met my wife Diane (who is from Nelson) while we were both living in Sydney. We moved back to Auckland in the mid 1980's and raised two sons who both now live in Europe.

We ran away from Auckland 10 years ago and spent time living in Matarangi before moving permanently to Papamoa which we love.

I also spend time helping other charities including Brain Injury NZ, Brain Injury Otago, The Papamoa Food Hub and the Western BOP Disability Support Trust.

It is a pleasure to be back at Headway BOP working with a great committee and I look forward to catching up at various functions.

Best Regards

John

*Thank
you!*

Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers who assisted with Headway's fundraiser across various venues in July/August. We collected \$1307.80.

HEADWAY BRAIN INJURY ASSN BOP INC
Annual General Meeting 2026

Thursday 24 September 2026

10.45 am for start at 11.00 am

Club Mount Maunganui

45 Kawaka Street Mount Maunganui 3116

Lunch at 12 noon

The AGM will be held in the Boardroom with lunch after in the Restaurant

(order and pay at the main bar)

A quorum of twelve financial members is required to hold Annual General Meeting
so please attend if you can.

MEET YOUR LOCAL GENERAL ELECTION CANDIDATES

A Forum for the Disabled Community hosted by the
Western Bay of Plenty Disability Support Trust

FRIDAY 2 OCTOBER 2026

10.15AM - 12.30PM

**BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH,
90 BETHLEHEM ROAD**

The Western Bay of Plenty Disability Support Trust invites you
to attend a **FREE** community forum where local General Election
candidates will answer questions about issues that matter to
disabled people, their families, whānau, and carers.

This is your opportunity to hear directly from candidates, learn about their policies,
and better understand how they plan to support the disabled community.

Who should attend?

Everyone is welcome, including:

Disabled people
Family members and whānau
Carers and support people
Disability organisations
Community members interested in disability issues

*'Working together for an inclusive
community where everyone belongs'.*

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE AVAILABLE



Booking: Contact Gill Gardener to reserve your place:
coordinator.wbop.dst@gmail.com or Tel: 021 333 900

www.disabilitysupporttrust.org.nz

GROUPS – ALL WELCOME

You are all invited to attend our groups, see below for this months dates:

FRIDAY 4 SEP – Katikati Coffee Group, 10.15am Digital hub next to the library.

FRIDAY 11 & 25 SEP – Tauranga Coffee Group – 10.00 am Senior Citz Hall, Maitland Street, Greerton.

NOTICEBOARD

Mt New World \$15.00 Voucher Aug 2026

The lucky winner was **Chris Foote**

Big thanks to owner Alan Rudkin for supporting Headway.

Brain Injury ID Card

Our Brain Injury ID cards help explain your condition in situations where others may not understand. Carry one for a discreet way to communicate your needs and ensure better support.

This card is free thanks to Drake Meddox!



I have experienced a brain injury Please be patient



NAME:

Proudly sponsored by **DRAKE medox** 50 YEARS

BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION IDENTIFICATION
PH: 04 473 5004

I may have -

- Cognitive difficulties - e.g. difficulty with thinking clearly, maintaining concentration, tiredness, solving problems, planning and completing a project, short-term memory problems
- Physical problems - e.g. reduced balance, slower reflexes, headaches and reduced stamina
- Sensory difficulties - e.g. impaired sight, smell, hearing, and taste
- Difficulty with expressing oneself or understanding others
- Personality changes - e.g. irritability, intolerance, depression, anxiety, socially inappropriate behaviour, mood swings.
- Difficulty in learning and remembering new information

Proudly sponsored by **DRAKE medox** 50 YEARS

HOW TO APPLY

If you would like a card please contact

Diane at liaison.headwaybop@brain-injury.org.nz

HAVE YOUR CONTACT DETAILS CHANGED?

Please let us know if your address, email or phone number have changed by emailing admin.headwaybop@brain-injury.org.nz with your new details.

SUBS & DONATIONS

MEMBERSHIP SUBS ARE NOW DUE

1 July 2026 – 30 June 2027

Headway bank account number: 03-0445-0195410-00

Please include your name as reference.

**THE MORE FINANCIAL MEMBERS WE HAVE, THE MORE GRANTS WE RECEIVE FROM
FUNDING TRUSTS, AND THE MORE WE CAN DO. SO IF YOU ARE NOT ALREADY A MEMBER,
WHY NOT JOIN TODAY!**

To become a member of Headway BOP please complete the form below and send back to admin.headwaybop@brain-injury.org.nz or mail to 53 Fraser St, Tauranga 3112.

Name/s

Address

Phone

Email/s

Subscription: Individual \$5 or \$10 Family (please circle one)

I consent to the collection and retention of the above information by Headway Brain Injury Assn BOP Inc for purpose of membership records in accordance with the Privacy Act 2020.

Signed: Date:

**Headway gratefully accepts donations direct to our
Account 030445 0195410 00**

Contact Headway office on 07 572 4547 or Gill 021 333 900 or click below to donate via our Give a Little page.

DONATE

Headway acknowledges support and funding assistance from Lottery Grants, COGS, Lion Foundation, NZ Community Trust, Pub Charity, WBOP Disability Support Trust, Mt RSA, and Ministry of Health. Lions Papamoa, Lions Greerton, Lions Harbour City, Lions Katikati, Tauranga Rotary Trust; Good OP Shop Presbyterian, TECT, St George Centrepont, Endeavour, Legacy Trust.

Thank you to the many retailers allowing donation boxes on their counters.

COMMITTEE

A. Anderson, J. Skelton G. Gardner,
J. Simpson, D. Hurdsfield

PERSONNEL

Liaison Officer - Diane Hurdsfield
Services Coordinator - Gill Gardner
Admin Officer - Jan Simpson



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